

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:298
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY TRAI
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with regard to number of telecom operators, spectrum allocation and acquisitions;
- (b) whether Department of Telecommunication is not in favour of the recommendations and set up a Committee to study the above recommendations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Global System of Mobile operators also opposing the recommendations; and
- (e) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (e) On 29th August 2007, the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were received on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers". TRAI has made recommendations, inter-alia, on number of Access Services telecom operators, spectrum allocation criterion, mergers and acquisitions etc. TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Global System of Mobile (GSM) operators.

Government has already taken a decision on TRAI's recommendation on 17-10-2007, inter-alia, accepting that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area.

Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision on these recommendations in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is sub-judice.